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Identical letters dated 22 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to our numerous letters regarding the efforts of the Al Saud regime to destroy the Syrian State and people, I should like to draw your attention to the letter dated 11 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Al Saud regime addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council. In that letter, which was issued as document A/68/769-S/2014/92, he claimed, inter alia, that his regime had promulgated new counter-terrorism legislation in an attempt to deceive the international community and convince it of the regime's sincerity in countering terrorism and fulfilling its commitments under the relevant Security Council resolutions. The regime seems to believe that contributing $100 million to finance the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre will absolve it of legal and moral responsibility for the thousands of deaths it has caused and offset the billions of dollars it has expended in support of terrorist groups in Syria and other parts of the world. In order to counter terrorism in fact, the regime's deeds should be aligned with its words, that is to say, it should promulgate legislation and put it into effect. The hollowness and lack of credibility of that legislation is demonstrated by the fact that the Saudi regime has not taken any real action to stop incitement to terrorism by reining in the Saudi preachers of strife who issued calls for jihad in Syria and other parts of the world in response to the call for jihad in the Levant that Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Al-Qaida, made in October 2013.

The threat lies in the fact that this regime continues to disseminate the takfirist, Wahhabist ideology that has been adopted by all of the terrorist groups to justify their crimes. This evil has not only affected Syria, but also every group of Saudi society, where it struck first before spreading to the entire world. It is therefore not surprising that thousands of Saudis, including university professors, doctors, engineers, members of the military and civil servants, have embraced this takfirist, Wahhabist ideology because the Saudi regime is sponsoring and directing this terrorist ideology, which is linked to Al-Qaida both ideologically and

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organizationally. It is also ignoring the actions of those preachers of strife who are calling for jihad throughout the world. By exploiting the facilities given to them by the Saudi regime, such as access to television stations and social media, those preachers have managed to make individuals such as those named above to ignore their senses and abandon their families, lives and futures, and have convinced them to come to Syria, just as they came before to New York, London, Madrid and other cities of the region and the world, in order to kill and be killed for the sake of so-called jihad. This jihad is the product of political fatwas that are covered with a veneer of religion that is as far removed as can be from the tolerant principles and values of Islam. To confirm that the Saudis are supporting terrorism and sponsoring the criminals who commit acts of terrorism, my Government will provide the Security Council and its Committees concerned with counter-terrorism with detailed information regarding the identities of 228 Saudi terrorists who were killed in Syria.

It has become apparent to all that the Saudi regime's letters to the Security Council and its pledges to punish those who engage in combat in Syria on their return to their countries are simply an attempt to mislead. They are nothing more than cheap propaganda that must be replaced by tangible actions, the most significant of which should be the cessation of incitement of terrorism through the dissemination of Wahhabist, takfirist ideology, which is the foundation of extremism, and fatwas calling for jihad. The Saudi regime should also refrain from recruiting terrorists and dispatching them to Syria and other parts of the world, including Muslim countries. In that connection, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms its right to bring to justice those who support the Arab and foreign terrorists who are committing crimes in Syria. This right shall not be extinguished should the terrorists be granted amnesty by their Governments on their return to their countries. This right is furthermore not subject to negotiation, may not be renounced and not time bound, as affirmed by Syrian domestic law, international law, United Nations resolutions and relevant international instruments.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic draws the attention of the Security Council to this important information and expects the Council to take the measures required to deter the Saudi regime from continuing to incite and support terrorism, in accordance with its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1989 (2011).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative